

# CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



## LOST FISHING GEAR ... LET US KNOW

Reporting your lost gear supports the MCZ Code of Best Practice...

Please Record information such as:

- Name and PLN of vessel
- Type and quantity of gear
- Date/time when the gear was lost
- Last known position of the gear
- Any measures taken to retrieve the gear

and send this to the contacts below...

## JANUARY 2026

STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING!

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 2026  
18:00 - 21:00

at Northrepps Village Hall

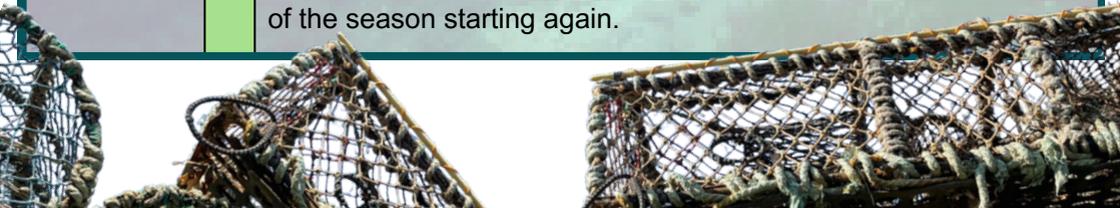
If you haven't done so already please RSVP.

On track	Scheduled	Delayed	Not started
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## MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

### Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023

<b>Byelaw</b>	Confirmation of the Byelaw is delayed. However, delays are a result of the QA process rather than significant issues with the byelaw itself. The byelaw will be submitted back to the MMO and is anticipated to be in the final stages of sign off before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation.
<b>Permit conditions</b>	A management plan for for developing permit conditions using an incremental approach was agreed by the Authority at the 62 <sup>nd</sup> Eastern IFCA Meeting and will be finalised at the next Management Task & Finish Group meeting.
<b>Voluntary Code of Best Practice</b>	
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitoring of the Code of Best Practice is ongoing. Lost Gear reporting will be discussed at the stakeholder meeting in February to ensure industry have the mechanisms to report lost gear ahead of the season starting again.



## RESEARCH PROGRESS

### Natural Disturbance Study (NDS)

The study was initially delayed due to challenges in completing baseline surveys, however, it is now back on track with the surveys ongoing. The closed area buoys have been removed for winter and monitoring has shown high compliance. The next multibeam surveys are planned for February/March. Contracts for the analysis of multibeam and ROV data collected so are ongoing with outputs due at the end of March. An independent review of the study has been completed and found the study to be fit for purpose but made some recommendations to enhance the project which are currently being explored.

### Mapping sensitive features

This workstream is complete. The final rugged chalk extent is available on our [habitat mapping webpage](#).

### Mapping fishing activities

The project was previously significantly delayed as insufficient data was available to inform baseline levels. However, as a result of the interim measures and the requirement for IVMS established in spring last year, the required data is now available and the project is now progressing. Whilst challenges remain in terms of accessing IVMS data a solution is being developed with industry members.

### Adaptive Gear Trials

This project has been placed on hold due to challenges with funding and achieving a robust study design with the resources available.

### Determining value of rugged chalk

Newcastle University have completed a study investigating the the social value of the fishery but final outputs have not yet been published. The chalk value study was previously on hold but has now been picked up. A questionnaire is being developed to support this workstream with sampling due to commence as the fishery and the weather pick up.